Rate Schedule for Bazar Areas

3033. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of rate schedule for which bazar areas leasehold lands in cantonments could be converted into freehold subject to such land is not required for defence and public purpose;

(b) whether Defence Estate Officer of various Cantonments are empowered for conversion of Bazar area land from leasehold to freehold, if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the names, designation and addresses of the authority empowered for such conversion after full payment of prescribed schedule rates;

(c) what are the details of Cantonment Property Rules 1925, serialwise; and

(d) whether any such conversion referred to above has been made since Government have taken a decision sometime in October 1991, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Lease hold properties in Bazar Areas are converted into free hold on payment of full market value of the land, allowing a rebate equal to the part of the premium proportionate to the unexpired portion of the lease. The amount of conversion value is worked out on the basis of the Standard Table of Rents of the Cantonment concerned, prepared by a Committee consisting of a representative each of the Defence Estate Officer, Station Commander, Collector and the adjoining Municipality. The Standard Table of Rent contains only rental value of the property (lands), which is $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the market value. The rental value is multiplied by 40 for the purpose of determining the market value of a property.

The Cantonment Property Rules, 1925, have been notified in the Gazette and are available as a published document.

The power to sanction conversion of lease hold/other resumable properties, into free hold is vested in the Ministry of Defence and has not been delegated to the Defence Estate Officers.

Modernisation of Abbot Guns by EME

3034. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) has succeeded in the field of modernising 'Abbot' Guns with a range of 18 to 25 KMs;

(b) if so, the extent of foreign exchange likely to be saved by this project, and the scope of expansion of its production by EME; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government with regard to the modernisation of such work-shops of E.M.E. in different sectors in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b): No project for the modernisation of Abbot guns has been undertaken. However, by undertaking the overhaul of the gun indigenously, a saving of approximately Rs. 75 crores in foreign exchange has been effected, in comparison to the costs which would have been incurred if the guns had been sent abroad for overhaul. 75 Abbot guns are planned for indigenous overhaul by the EME.

(c): Modernisation of Army Base Workshops is a continuous process and steps are taken, from time to time, to equip them with modern plant any machinery, to streamline systems and improve productivity.